

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FOR: ARA FROM WHITE 2

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PINS SHUM OAS UY
SUBJ: PROPOSED STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CIECC CONFERENCE

AS URUGUAYAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SECGEN ORFILA HAVE RAISED
SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT THIS CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE IT
IMPORTANT FOR U.S. TO GIVE ITS VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO THIS
MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONFERENCE. I THEREFORE PROPOSE TO MAKE THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS
PLEASE CABLE THESE NIACT IMMEDIATE NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 9.

AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA HAS CLEARED THIS STATEMENT.

BEGIN STATEMENT: PRIOR TO DISCUSSING THE U.S. PLEDGE, I WOULD
LIKE TO REFER TO THE EXCELLENT SPEECH BY THE HONORABLE MINISTER
OF EDUCATION, DANIEL DARRACQ, AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THIS
CONFERENCE. THAT ADDRESS HAD MANY INSIGHTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR OUR
MEETING. I WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE ELOQUENCE OF THESE WORDS

QUOTE
EDUCATION MUST PREPARE MAN FOR THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY, TO
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ASSIMILATE IT IN ORDER TO MAKE LIFE MORE BEARABLE AND TO EXTEND
ITS BENEFITS SO AS TO PRESERVE AND ENNOBLE IT; UT IT MUST ALSO
PROVIDE A WARNING AGAINST THE EXCESSES THAT GRADUALLY WEAKEN IT.
MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, CAN CREATE A SPIRITUAL VACUUM.
THE TIME HAS COME TO PROCLAIM THAT THE DESTINY OF CULTURE CANNOT
REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO, SEDUCED BY THE MAGIC OF
TECHNICAL METHODS, FORGET THAT MAN CONTINUES TO BE THE MOST

IMPORTANT THING OF ALL. THIS IS THE CONVICTION THAT INSPIRES
THE WILL AND STRENGTHENS THE SPIRIT OF URUGUAY IN ITS CLEAR AND
RADICAL CONFRONTATION WITH ALL TRENDS THAT SEEK TO IGNORE
THE HUMAN CONDITIONS.
END QUOTE.

THE MINISTER THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS AND HE
PLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT IN THESE WORDS, QUOTE: WE WILL APPLY
OUR EFFORTS TO THE INTEGRAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BY
MAINTAINING AND RAISING THE HIGH STANDARDS THAT WE HAVE ATTAINED
IN THE COURSE OF OUR HISTORY. END QUOTE.

IN THE VIEW OF THE U.S. DELEGATION, MINISTER DARRACQ AND
SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA WERE ENTIRELY CORRECT TO INTRODUCE THE
IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF A CONFERENCE
DEVOTED TO EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE.

FOR EDUCATION CANNOT FLOURISH, SCIENCE CANNOT PROSPER, AND
CULTURE CANNOT ENRICH THE LIVES OF OUR CITIZENS UNLESS THE STATE
UNDERTAKES TO PROTECT CERTAIN RIGHTS WHICH ARE DECLARED TO BE
THE FOUNDATIONS FOR CIVILIZED SOCIETY IN ALL OF THE CONSTITUTIONS OF
THE COUNTRIES HERE REPRESENTED AND IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE INTER AMERICAN DECLARATION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS. AMONG THESE RIGHTS ARE NUMBERED FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, FREE-
DOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY ARREST AND PUNISHMENT. WITH-
OUT THESE GUARANTEES, BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS ARE AT THE MERCY OF
THE STATE TO GRANT OR TO WITHDRAW ACCORDING TO THE SHIM OF ITS
AGENTS.

AS PRESIDENT CARTER SAID IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS, THERE EXISTS
IN THE WORLD "A RISING PASSION FOR FREEDOM". HE ALSO EMPHASIZED
THAT THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE "BASED ON
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WORLDWIDE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS".

IT WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION TO DE-
CLARE BEFORE THIS GATHERING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO RAISE
ITS STANDARDS IN FULFILLING ITS OBLIGATION TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS.
BY CHOOSING TO MAKE THIS COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY
BEFORE AN IMPORTANT COUNCIL OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, URUGUAY
HAS EMPHASIZED THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTEREST IN THE PRO-
TECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE OBLIGATION OF ALL STATES TO ASSIST
IN MAINTAINING AND RAISING THE STANDARD OF OBSERVANCE OF GUARANTEES
OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AN UNDERTAKING FREELY ENTERED INTO BY ALL MEMBER
STATES OF THE OAS SIGNATORY TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DELEGATION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS. MUTUAL INTEREST COMPELS US TO STRENGTHEN THE OBSER-
VANCE OF THESE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS THAT
UNDERMINE CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE SECURITY OF OUR PEOPLES. WORDS
ARE IMPORTANT; ACTIONS ARE BASIC. ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE AMER-
ICAS SHOULD SUPPORT OUR ORGANIZATION AS AN EXPRESSION, IN ALL ITS
PARTS, OF OUR HOPES AND OBLIGATIONS.

THE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE, WHICH IS
MEETING HERE THANKS TO THE GRACIOUS AND GENEROUS HOSPITALITY OF THE

URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT. IS CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING OUR COOPERATION IN THE IMPORTANT FIELDS THAT WE ARE NOW DISCUSSING. THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ANOTHER AGENCY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, ALSO DESERVES OUR SINCERED SUPPORT AND COOPERATION SO THAT IT CAN FULFILL ITS IMPORTANT ROLE OF EVALUATING OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO WHICH WE ARE ALL EQUALLY COMMITTED.

WE CANNOT SUPPORT ONE, OR SEVERAL, PARTS OF THE OAS, AND IGNORE OTHER EQUALLY IMPORTANT PARTS WITHOUT RISKING A SERIOUS WEAKENING OF THE FABRIC OF OUR INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

I CLOSE THIS PART OF MY STATEMENT WITH A QUOTATION FROM THE UNESCO PUBLICATION "INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPRESENT AN ESPECIALLY CRITICAL PROBLEM IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD. THEIR WIDER REALIZATION IS INCREASINGLY REQUIRED IN ACHIEVING UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION, AND PEACE BETWEEN AMONG NATIONS AS WELL AS WITHIN NATIONS. COUNTRIES WITH EXTENSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS MAY SOMETIMES SEEM UNSTABLE OR INEFFICIENT, BUT THOSE WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE NOT LIKELY TO ENDURE. END QUOTE. THESE WORDS APPEAR IN THE FOREWORD. THE AUTHOR OF THAT FOREWORD IS DR. ROBERT LEESTMA, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION, AND A MEMBER OF OUR DELEGATION. END STATEMENT.
SIRACUSA

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